



The California Delegation

From the New York Herald of February 14th, we glean the following bit of romance in real life, of the new Senators and Representatives of California, looking at the door of Congress.

His life is one of the most romantic days except personal history of this country. It is but a few years ago that he came to Washington from South Carolina, having received an appointment in the topographical bureau.

While here, he became attached to a daughter of Colonel Benton, was ordered away from the house by the old gentleman, as an adventurer; but the daughter, with as much firmness as, and more sagacity than her father, saw only in Fremont, the man, the young hero, the enterprising engineer, and the future man of distinction and fame.

They were privately married and it was some months before the father was reconciled to the match; but he at length surrendered, and took the young adventurer, and the inflexible daughter, as man and wife, under the family roof.

In 1842, Fremont, from the topographical bureau, was sent out in his first expedition to the head waters of the Missouri and the Rocky mountains. He was so successful that on his return he was immediately sent out again, to extend his explorations beyond the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, and on his return in '46, was again sent out; and was engaged in his topographical duties in California when the war commenced with Mexico.

His war, however, was a war to himself; he raised a battalion of mounted men on the spot, turned back upon the Mexican forces in pursuit of him, drove them before him, was joined by Com. Stockton, and the country was conquered when Gen. Kearney, overland, came in for the purpose of subjugating it.

Fremont had been made Governor, was superseded by Com. Stockton, who, on leaving the country, left Fremont in charge of Gen. Kearney, who arrested him; brought him into the United States, had him tried for disobedience, mutiny, &c.; by a court-martial at Washington, and he was convicted by the Court.

But his verdict was nullified by President Polk, and Fremont was ordered to resume his rank as Lieut. Colonel in the army. But he resigned, and in the fall of 1848, with a view of establishing a settlement in California, but mainly with the view of exploring the still unknown regions of the Great Basin, and the unknown Colorado of the Gulf of California, he set out on a private overland expedition, intending to strike a central route across the Rocky Mountains, to finish up his maps of the whole country beyond them.

He was wrecked among the snows in the mountains at the source of the Del Norte, in December; a third of his company were frozen or starved to death, his mules were buried in the snow, his baggage lost, and but for his own powers of endurance, the whole expedition would have perished. He rallied the remnants at Santa Fe, and passed out by the Gila, south to California, which is far south of the unknown line he had intended to traverse.

He went to work on his farm, two hundred miles from the gold washings; and yet the first thing he discovered upon it, was a gold mine. A number of his faithful mountaineers are still with him. He set them to work on the mine, and they pay a per centage of the proceeds to Fremont. He is a rich man, though reduced a hundred times, within the last eight years, to mule and dog flesh, roots, and bark, for subsistence.

His rents at San Francisco amount to \$40,000 a year. His gold mine is reputed to be of fabulous richness. Shortly after his arrival in California, Fremont was appointed to run the Mexican boundary. He accepted; but soon after resigned the commission. He is now in Washington, as Senator from the new State of California, and is, from all accounts, the most popular man in that country. He is a slender boy in appearance; but his face is marked by intelligence, hardships and perseverance.

The other Senator, Mr. W. M. Gwin, is a lawyer, originally from Mississippi, was a member from that State in the twenty-seventh Congress—was subsequently appointed to superintend the building of the New Orleans Custom House, by Mr. Secretary Walker, but was, last spring, turned out by Mr. Secretary Morelith, when he packed up his traps and left for California, with the declaration that he intended to return a Senator to the Congress of the United States. He has redeemed his word. He is a man of considerable experience and tact as a politician, of very clever abilities, and of the democratic school. He is rather large sized, fine looking man, in the vigor of middle life.

Hon. George W. Wright, member elect to the House, is from Nantucket—was engaged there in the whale oil and sperm candle business, when the California fever broke out. He went to San Francisco, plunged at once into the business of speculation, gold dust and politics, and returns a member to Congress. He is a fine, intelligent looking young man.

Hon. Edward Gilbert was a Journeyman printer in the Albany Argus office, at the breaking out of the Mexican war. He went out a volunteer in Stevenson's regiment. He remained in the country after the restoration of peace. He established the "Alta California" newspaper, in conjunction with two or three partners. The paper became very popular—the editor became popular, and the elections coming round, he offered the field as a candidate for Congress, pretty much on his own hook; was triumphantly elected, and is now in Washington awaiting the session of the two houses. He is a little taller, but keen and quick, and well informed. He is generally is upon matters of public interest.

How to become a Congressman—Go to the west, buy an ox-team, and with it take your wife and little ones two thousand miles through the wilderness to Oregon. So did Mr. Thurston of the Territory in Congress.

Another mail robbery has been reported in the Sunbury Advertiser, on the Pennsylvania line, via Danville, Virginia. A letter containing \$500, mailed in New York, is missing. An agent of the Post-Office Department has been on the line for several days, trying to ferret out the robbery, but has been unsuccessful.

House of Representatives

Washington, Feb. 20, 1850.

The House of Representatives met at ten o'clock, and the prayer was read by the Chaplain, Rev. Mr. [Name].

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